

Sir:

In response to the Office communication of December 12, 2001, applicants are resubmitting the Preliminary Amendment originally filed on March 14, 2001 to comply with 37 CFR §1.121.

Prior to examination of the above-identified new national phase patent application, please amend the application, as follows:

In the Specification¹

On page one (1) of the specification please amend the title of application to read as follows:

METHOD FOR PRODUCING CELLULOSIC FORMS

In the Claims

Amend claims 1-11, to read as follows:

1. A process for producing formed cellulosic articles, particularly fibres and filaments, comprising:
 - a) dissolving cellulose in an aqueous solution of N-methylmorpholine N-oxide, and
 - b) extruding the cellulose solution through an extrusion die via an air gap into a precipitation bath with precipitation of the formed articles, said cellulose solution and/or said precipitation bath containing a tenside,

¹ Applicant has provided a marked-up version of the amended specification and amended claims in Appendix A, and a clean set of all pending claims, amended to date, in Appendix B.

characterized in that in the step b) the tenside content c of the cellulose solution and/or of the precipitation bath is in the range $100 \text{ ppm} > c \geq 5 \text{ ppm}$, and the width of the air gap is in the range from 2 to 20 mm.

2. The process according to claim 1 wherein the tenside content c is in the range from 8 to 70 ppm.
3. The process according to claim 1 wherein the tenside content c in the cellulose solution is in the range $70 \text{ ppm} > c \geq 30 \text{ ppm}$.
4. The process according to claim 1 wherein the width of the air gap is in the range from 2 to 8 mm.
5. The process according to claim 1 wherein the distance of the solution jets from each other at the exit of the extrusion die is in the range from 0.22 to 0.7 mm.
6. The process according to claim 1 wherein the tenside is added to the cellulose at a time selected from the group consisting of before the stage a), in the stage a), and between the stages a) and b).
7. The process according to claim 1 wherein the tenside is added to the cellulose at a time selected from the group consisting of in stage b), and after the stage b).
8. The process according to claim 1 wherein a non-ionogenic tenside is used.
9. The process according to claim 1 wherein the precipitation bath from the stage b) is regenerated to a purified aqueous amine oxide which is reused in the stage a).
10. The process according to claim 9 wherein the tenside is separated from the amine oxide solution in the course of the regeneration of the precipitation bath, and is reused in the stage b).

11. The process according to claim 1 wherein the cellulose solution is extruded through a die having a hole density in the range from 1.8 to 20 mm⁻².

Please add the following claims 12-18:

12. A process for producing formed cellulosic articles, particularly fibres and filaments, comprising:

a) dissolving cellulose in an aqueous solution of a tertiary amine oxide, and

b) extruding the cellulose solution through an extrusion die via an air gap into a precipitation bath with precipitation of the formed articles, said cellulose solution containing a tenside in a range from about 10 ppm to about 50 ppm.

13. The process according to claim 12 further comprising a tenside in the precipitation bath.

14. The process according to claim 12 wherein the width of the air gap is in the range from 2 to 20 mm.

15. The process according to claim 12 wherein the tertiary amine oxide is N-methylmorpholine N-oxide.

16. A process for producing formed cellulosic articles, particularly fibres and filaments, comprising:

a) dissolving cellulose in an aqueous solution of a tertiary amine oxide, and